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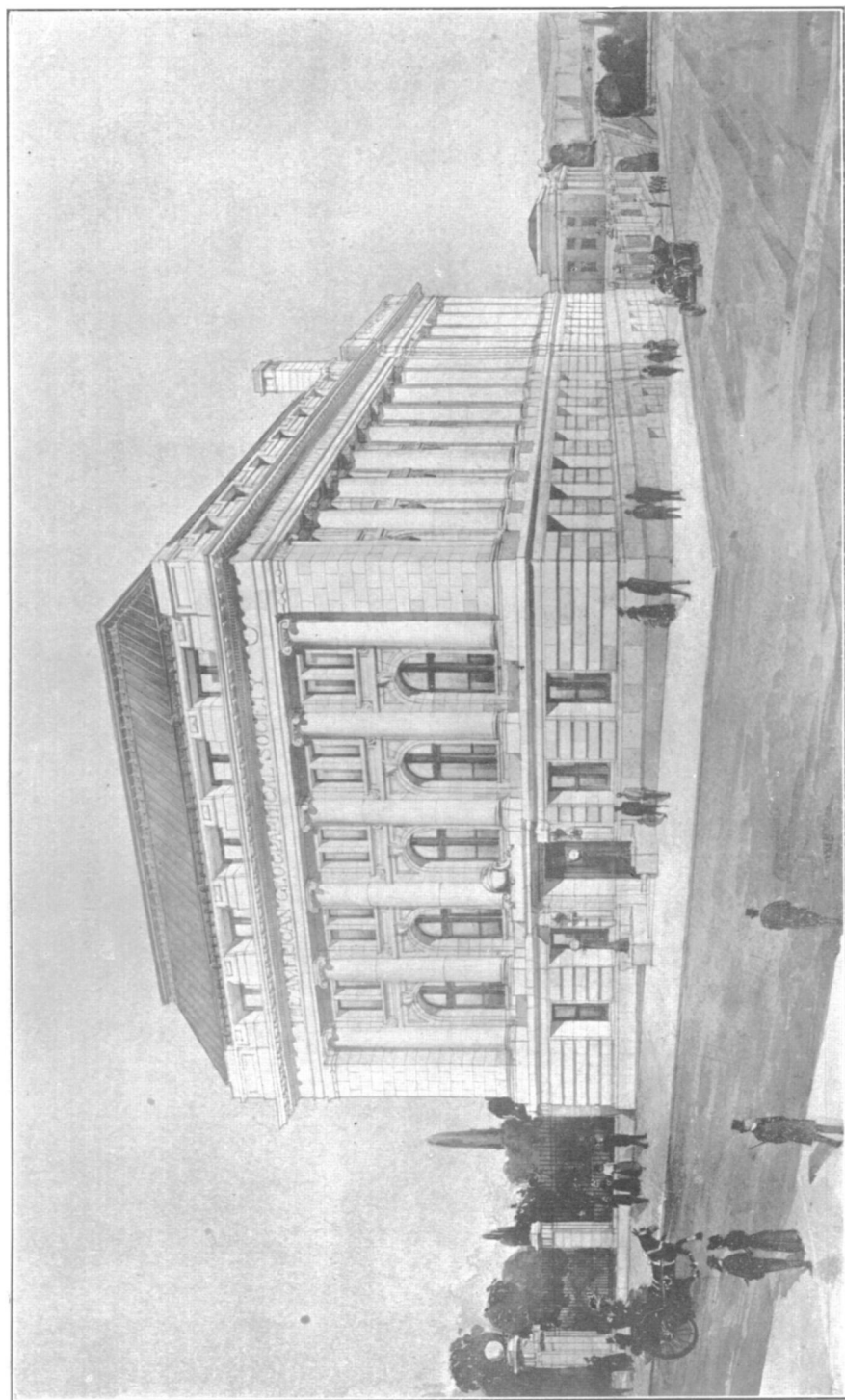
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THE NEW BUILDING OF THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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OF THE
AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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THE FUTURE HOME OF THE SOCIETY

The fortunate circumstances that have made it possible for the American Geographical Society to secure, for the growing needs of its work, a permanent home far more imposing and commodious than its present house, are described in the *Annual Report* of the Council to the Society. Our frontispiece shows the building now in course of erection at Broadway and 156th Street. In this handsome and dignified structure will center all the future activities of the Society. It will be supplied with every convenience for the conduct of all phases of the Society's work and for the comfort of Fellows, readers, geographical specialists and students who may desire to consult its literary and map collections.

The new building will occupy a part of the old-time Audubon Park. To the west of it are the fine buildings of The Hispanic Society of America, The American Numismatic and Archæological Society and the Spanish Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, now nearing completion. Just beyond is Riverside Drive and the broad surface of the Hudson, with the wall of the Palisades in the background. Other buildings, devoted to science and art, will probably occupy the remaining sites on this beautiful plateau.

In no over-crowded city could a more ideal spot be found for a center of scientific activity. Occupying one of the higher elevations of Manhattan Island, easily accessible though remote from the great centers of business and traffic, wide Broadway on one side, no crowding of structures on the spacious grounds, the location of our new building is in perfect keeping with the nobility and beauty of the

structure. No wall will touch any side of it. The two façades, shown in the illustration, give a good idea of the whole exterior, all the faces of the building being similar in design.

The building will have a frontage of 65 feet on Broadway and 125 feet on 156th Street; the main entrance will be on the south side, reached through a Broadway gate and a walk traversing a wide court. Built entirely of Indiana limestone, the structure will be in the style of the Italian Renaissance, conforming in architectural design to the other buildings on the grounds. It will have four stories and a basement, the latter extending under the entire building and affording large space for the storage of publications, map plates and supplies, the engine room, heating plant, workshop, rooms for the caretaker, etc.

A most interesting feature is the stack rooms, in the west part of the building, where the book collections will be kept. There are to be six stack floors, each 57 by 33 feet, and every one easily accessible from all the others and from each of the four floors of the main building. These six floors will have a storage capacity about five times as large as that of our present library, to say nothing of the book storage facilities reserved in the basement. Provisions are thus made for the accumulations of generations to come.

The main entrance is through an oval vestibule leading to a wide hall, opening out of which are the business office, a spacious room for meetings of the Council of the Society and two large rooms extending along the 156th Street front. These rooms, when desirable, may be thrown into one and used for a lecture hall. They will seat about 400 persons and will well serve the purposes of scientific meetings and other occasions when the attendance is not expected to be large. Adjoining the office, is a room for the mailing department and the storage of the Society's *Bulletin*. An electric elevator will run between the basement and the top floor.

The offices of the editorial and library departments are on the second floor. On the south side of the building overlooking the court, are the rooms of the librarian and his assistants and a reception room to which visitors will be directed. Across the hall and extending along the 156th Street front from Broadway to the stack rooms, are two editorial rooms and a spacious magazine and reading room. The geographical periodicals of every land will be kept in the reading room where visitors will find every convenience for consulting the current literature of the earth studies. Specialists and others who come to the Society for study and research, will find

accommodations in a number of study rooms on the second and third floors where the books and map material desired may be assembled and each may pursue his work in quiet.

The third floor will be entirely given to the map department and study rooms. Here are the offices of the map curator and his assistants. About two-thirds of the entire space will be devoted to two map rooms where the rapidly growing cartographic collections will be stored in a manner that will safeguard them, as much as possible, against dust and deterioration, while each item will be easily accessible.

The chief feature of the fourth floor will be the large map-drafting room, with abundance of overhead light for craftsmen engaged in a branch of the graphic arts which, in its finer phases, is trying to the eyes. Here, also is the fan-room, the culminating feature of the system of ventilation which is to give perfect circulation of air throughout the building. It is needless here to speak in any detail, of the numerous conveniences on every floor, such as book-lifts, filing compartments for manuscripts, enclosed pigeonholes, hot and cold water from basement to roof, etc., which will greatly facilitate the duties of the working staff. A telephone system will connect all the departments.

The frontispiece shows the name of the Society on the Broadway façade of the building. The names of about thirty of the most illustrious explorers, geographers and cartographers of past centuries will be similarly placed on the other façades. No inflammable material will enter into the construction of the building, which is to be as nearly fireproof as it is possible to make it.

Many geographers throughout the country have already expressed interest in this new and great addition to the facilities of the Society; and our Fellows cannot fail to share the feeling of the Council that, when this noble building is completed, "it will be an ornament to the city and a credit to the Society, its President and all concerned."